FY2016 BUDGET REQUEST

Community Development through Public Library Broadband Access

New funding for public libraries: $200,000 to reimburse public libraries for a portion of their Internet Service Provider costs

- Library service today depends on high-capacity, high-quality, affordable broadband.
- In FY2013, Idahoans logged on to public library computers some 2,011,400 times.
- Only 7.1% of Idaho public libraries have connectivity speeds of greater than 30 Mbps, compared to 15.6% nationally.
- These funds will help libraries meet the growing need Idahoans have for broadband services:

	% of Libraries	# of Libraries
Licensed databases in support of education, business, & health	100.0%	144
Information technology training for patrons	93.0%	134
Jobs databases & other job opportunity resources	96.2%	139
Homework resources	96.1%	138
Help accessing & using e-government websites	92.4%	133
Online civil service exam materials	80.7%	116
Help negotiating online job applications	78.6%	113

Read To Me Minigrants

New ongoing funding for elementary school libraries: $100,000 permanent increase for more grants for elementary school libraries to increase convenient access to quality, age-appropriate books for young children who are unlikely to have them at home.

- Research shows that the best way to improve a child's reading skills is to assure that s/he has convenient access to reading materials, at school and at home.
- With 50% of Idaho school children living in poverty, many are not likely to have age-appropriate reading material at home.
- Most Idaho elementary school libraries have insufficient budgets to provide quality, age-appropriate books for their students to either read at school or to take home.

Elementary school library budgets

- 10% > $1,000
- 62% $100 - $1,000
- 28% < $100

# of schools
- 26
- 164
- 74